MARVEL

4

CLAREMONT
KOTIAN
GRUNDETJERN

GAMBIT

Remy LeBeau is a thief. Growing up in New Orleans, he honed his craft from a young age as part of the Thieves Guild.

He is also a **mutant**, and with his power to draw out the potential energy of any given object, he can make even something as harmless as a simple playing card an item of explosive force to be reckoned with.

Remy has used his powers and skills to lead a life of adventure and intrigue, traveling and stealing and gallivanting under the nom de guerre...

Gambit's devil-may-care lifestyle has crossed his path with that of **Ororo Munroe**, A.K.A. **Storm**--the leader of the mutant heroes known as the **X-Men**.

But a recent encounter with the villainous **Nanny** and **Orphan-Maker** has left Ororo de-aged back to childhood, with her memory and mutant power to control the weather unreliable at best.

Remy has taken young Ororo under his wing, advancing the thieving skills she first developed as a child on the streets of Cairo. On their latest adventure, a near catastrophe on the road landed Remy and 'Ro's car in the Mississippi River. With the help of **Marissa DeCastro** and her mother, **Doctor Gabriella DeCastro**, 'Ro survived, but not before meeting her ancestor **Ashaké** on the astral plane. While Ororo was recuperating, Remy butted heads with **Dominic Solarz**, a local developer trying to force the DeCastros out of their home. Solarz and his men kidnapped 'Ro and Gabriella, but Remy and Marissa managed to rescue them with an assist from Ashaké. In the aftermath, Solarz was visited by a bounty hunter from beyond the stars who has her sights set on Remy...

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EDITOR'S NOTE:
This story takes place in the previously unexplored time period only glimpsed during UNCANNY X-MEN #267.

OPENING NIGHT.

THE MOTOR VESSEL SAMUEL CLEMENS, ON A POKER CRUISE DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER...

REMY LEBEAU IS TALL AND HANDSOME AND CHARMING AS CAN BE--

--THE KIND OF MAN WHO WALKS INTO A ROOM AND EVERYONE'S EYES LIGHT UP.

HE'S ALSO A THIEF...

...WHO CAN STEAL ANYTHING FROM ANYONE.

WHICH MAKES THIS KIND OF CRUISE, A BOAT FULL OF HIGH-ROLLING GAMBLERS, A TRULY IRRESISTIBLE TEMPTATION.

SURPRISE FOR HIM IS THAT HE NEVER IMAGINED THE SAME THING--BEING BLINDSIDED RIGHT OUT OF NOWHERE--HAPPENING TO HIM.

CRUISIN'

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ACT 1.

TILL HE MET MARISSA DeCASTRO.

AND SHE STOLE HIS HEART.

FACT IS, THE LONGER THEY'RE TOGETHER, THE MORE HE DISCOVERS SHE'S CHOCK-FULL OF SURPRISES.

CASE IN POINT: SHE'S ONE OF THE BEST POKER PLAYERS HE'S EVER SEEN--WHICH IS SAYING A LOT.

ACT 2--THE NEXT DAY.

SHE LOVES THIS GAME.

SURPRISE IS, EVEN WHEN SHE LOSES A HAND, SHE WINS.

BECAUSE EVERYONE IN THE ROOM CAN'T TAKE THEIR EYES OFF HER.

THE CHIPS MEAN NOTHING; THE ATTENTION--EVERYTHING.

ACT 1--SAME TIME, DIFFERENT PLACE.

BECAUSE IN TRUTH, THE ONE TO REALLY WATCH OUT FOR IS THE ONE NOBODY SEES.

REMEMBER REMY?

HE'S PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN AS GAMBIT.

HE'S FROM NEW ORLEANS AND CONSIDERS HIMSELF AMONG THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT HE DOES--WHICH IS STEALING.

FIRST NIGHT, WHILE MARISSA GRABS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION...

...HE AND HIS PARTNER GO PROWLING.

SHE CALLS HERSELF 'RO...

...AND SHE'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS HE IS.

COME DAYTIME, THE LOVERS DO WHAT LOVERS DO.

'RO AND MARISSA'S MOM--DR. GABRIELLA DECASTRO--MAKE THEMSELVES SCARCE.

DOES IT BOTHER YOU, CHILD, WHAT'S HAPPENING BETWEEN REMY AND MARISSA?

GROWN-UP STUFF--TOTALLY BORRRING!

GIVE YOURSELF TIME, YOU MAY FEEL DIFFERENTLY.

YUCK!

YOU'D THINK IT'D MAKE ME CRAZY, MY DAUGHTER TEAMING WITH A THIEF.

BUT SHE'S SO... HAPPY.

I WISH I COULD FEEL THE SAME.

ACT 2--SAME TIME, DIFFERENT PLACE.

WHILE THE PASSENGERS IN THE MAIN SALON WATCH THE POKER GAME BUILD TO ITS CLIMAX...

...REMY PLIES HIS TRADE.

UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THE BEST-LAID PLANS...

EXCUSE ME--

--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JE SUIS UN VOLEUR, CHÈRE.

‹I'M ROBBING EVERYONE ABOARD.›*

‹WELL, DRESSED AS YOU ARE, YOU CERTAINLY LOOK THE PART.›

*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH. --MIRACULEUX MARK

‹I WONDER WHAT YOU'LL TRY TO TAKE FROM ME?›

‹PERHAPS YOUR HEART?›

‹THAT'S A FOOL'S GAMBIT. I'M WELL BEYOND SUCH TEMPTATION.›

‹BE CAREFUL, CHÈRE.›

‹I'M CALLED GAMBIT.›

‹AND THE ONLY THING I LOVE MORE THAN A WOMAN AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU...›

‹...IS A CHALLENGE TO MATCH.›

IT'S WELL PAST MIDNIGHT BEFORE THE EPIC GAME ENDS AND THE FOUR FRIENDS GATHER FOR A WELL-EARNED DINNER...

HAD YOURSELF A GOOD TIME, *CHÈRE?*

THE *BEST!*

MENU

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD SOME FUN YOURSELF.

HAD ITS MOMENTS.

REMY, I *CAN'T!*

SPECIAL WOMAN, SPECIAL NIGHT, SPECIAL GIFT.

NO LESS, *MA CHÈRE*, THAN YOU DESERVE.

OH, *STOP--* E-*NUFF--* *PUH-LEASE!*

NO MORE KISSY-FACE, YOU GUYS--

--TELL US ABOUT THE *GAME!*

IT WAS FUN!

THAT'S-- *IT?*

YOU'VE ALL HAD YOUR FUN.

YOU'VE ROBBED THESE PEOPLE BLIND--

--AND HARDLY ANY OF THEM SEEM TO HAVE EVEN NOTICED.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

ACT 3--THE RESOLUTION--
INLAND, POVERTY ROW.

"SEEMS ONLY *FAIR,* DOCTOR DARLIN'.

"ONE SIDE DON' NOTICE WHAT WE TAKE--

"--T'OTHER GETS WHAT THEY NEVER HAD."

"WHAT ABOUT THE LAW?"

"GOTTA CATCH ME FIRST.

"MEANTIME, AH LIVE BY M'OWN RULES...

"...HAVIN' FUN, AN' MAKIN' FOLKS AH CARE FOR--*HAPPY.*"

WE HELPED A LOT OF PEOPLE, REMY.

THA'S WHA'CHA DO, GIRL, WHEN FOLKS'RE IN NEED.

MOST THIEVES DON'T CARE.

YEAH, YEAH-- WE GOT HURT. BUT WE GOT BETTER.

HEY, REMY-- YOU ALWAYS PLAY THESE SONGS.

WHO'S THE SINGER?

OL' FRIEND--*LILA CHENEY.*

WILL YOU SIT *DOWN,* CHILD?!

REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?*

**SEE GAMBIT #2! --BOSS BASSO*

SHE BE DOIN' A CONCERT IN 'BAMA; WHERE WE GOIN'--

--T' HEAR THE MUSIC...

...AN' GET M'RISSA HER NEW OUTFIT.

YOU REALLY LIKE HER.

SHE BE SOMETHIN'... *SPECIAL.*

NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME, THA'S F'R SURE.

DUNNO WHERE THIS ALL WILL LEAD--

--BUT AH'M IN IT TO THE END.

REMY, YOU KEEP CHECKING YOUR MIRROR. WHAT'S BACK THERE?

NOTHIN'!

LIAR! I CAN TELL. I CAN *ALWAYS* TELL.

'RO, WE BE *THIEVES.*

THA'S WHY WE KEEP OUR EYES OPEN--

--SO'S WHEN WHOEVER'S OUT THERE SHOWS THEMSELVES, IT'S T' DISCOVER IT AIN'T US WHO'S THE PREY.

WE BE THE *HUNTERS.*

AT A PIT STOP, REMY FILLS THE GAS TANK WHILE 'RO AND MARISSA SWITCH SEATS. 'RO QUICKLY JOINS THE DOCTOR IN DREAMLAND.

THAT'S WHEN THEIR NIGHT STARTS GETTING... INTERESTING.

NO!

NO!

I WILL *NOT* HAVE THIS DREAM AGAIN.

WE *BOTH* HAVE GIFTS FROM MY ANCESTOR, ASHAKÉ.

WE BOTH HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO *USE* THEM!

THIS IS *CRAZY--*

--WHAT AM I *DOING?!*

SLAM

'RO!

MY HANDS-- THEY'VE TURNED INTO *FIRE!*

YET, SOMEHOW, THEY'RE *HEALING* 'RO!

WOW!

'RO-- CHILD--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOUR LIGHTNING SCAR--IT'S GLOWING.

THAT WAS SOME HIT!

BUT I FEEL *GREAT!*

LET'S DO IT *AGAIN!*

WELCOME TO **HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA**--

--THE HOME OF FOLKS WHO LIKE TO DREAM ABOUT GOING TO THE STARS--AND THEN GO OUT TO DESIGN AND BUILD THE VEHICLES THAT'LL GET THEM THERE.

THEY ALSO LIKE TO PARTY--WHICH IS WHERE **LILA CHENEY** FITS IN.

SHE DOESN'T SIMPLY DREAM ABOUT GOING TO THE STARS; SHE DOES IT ALL THE TIME.

SHE'S A MUTANT, Y'SEE--BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO TELEPORT HERSELF ACROSS INTERSTELLAR DISTANCES.

SHE'S BEEN DOING IT--AND SINGING ABOUT IT--EVER SINCE.

LILA

SHE'S ALSO A **THIEF.**

AMONG THE VERY BEST.

WITH A **REWARD** TO PROVE IT.

REMY--WHAT'S WRONG?

AND BOUNTY HUNTERS DETERMINED TO CASH IN.

NOTHIN', CHÈRE.

LILA CHENEY CONCERT COMES ONE COME ALL!

LE'S ALL GO HAVE US SOME FUN 'FORE WE MEET UP WITH LILA.

‹LIAR.›*

*TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC. --MB

‹SOMETHING POKED YOU, SAME AS IN THE CAR--›

‹--AND JUST LIKE THEN, YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO SHARE.›

‹WELL, TOUGH! WHATEVER COMES, I HAVE YOUR BACK.›

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HEY THERE, LOVER!

LILA!

WHERE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME, REMY?

YOU NEVER CALL, YOU NEVER WRITE, YOU NEVER COME HELP ME STEAL THINGS.

YOU ALMOST ACT LIKE WE'RE NO LONGER PALS!

WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

--I'M LILA CHENEY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS--I'M JUST TEASING.

ALL FRIENDS OF REMY'S...

...ARE FRIENDS OF MINE.

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IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.

YOU'RE *MARISSA*, YES?

WAS WATCHING YOU TWO BEFORE I MADE MY ENTRANCE.

NEVER SEEN HIM SO HAPPY.

I'M GLAD FOR HIM.

SAME GOES FOR *YOU!*

‹REMY'S ZONING OUT AGAIN!›

‹LADY'S TALKIN' ABOUT HIM BUT HE ISN'T PAYING THE SLIGHTEST ATTENTION.›

‹WHATEVER'S POKING HIM, IT'S FOR SERIOUS!›

YOU WANT A SUIT LIKE REMY'S, *HUH--* ONLY *BETTER!*

GIRL, I LIKE YOUR THINKING.

UP FOR A ROAD TRIP, MARISSA, DARLING?

UHHH...

'COURSE Y'ARE!

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND--

--I CAN ONLY 'PORT OVER INTERSTELLAR DISTANCES.

BACK IN A FLASH, FOLKS.

MAMA--

POOF!

REMY, WHAT'S WRONG?

STAY WITH GABBY, 'RO. KEEP HER SAFE--

--WHILE AH TAKE A STROLL.

YOU'RE *HUNTING!*

TRULY HOPE NOT.

SEE Y'ALL SOON.

MEANWHILE...

BOUNTY, WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE A SHOT?

YOU THINK THAT HASN'T BEEN TRIED BEFORE, SOLARZ?

LILA TELEPORTS ACROSS THE STARS!

SHE'D BE LONG GONE BEFORE THE ENERGY BOLT LEFT THE FIRING CHAMBER.

NOT TO WORRY. SHE'LL BE BACK.

EARTH IS HER HOMEWORLD. HERE, SHE DOESN'T BAIL ON CONCERTS. OR FRIENDS.

I'M CURIOUS TO SEE JUST HOW GOOD THAT CAJUN IS.

FOOD! SORTA

FINE--I'LL DEAL WITH THE GIRL AND THE MOTHER.

DIDN'T YOU LEARN *ANYTHING* FROM YOUR LAST ENCOUNTER?

TRUST ME, LITTLE MAN, THOSE TWO ARE *WAY* OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE.

FOOD! SORTA

MIGHT PROVE A CHALLENGE, EVEN FOR ME.

NO ONE TALKS TO ME LIKE THAT.

TRUE WORD!

WHO SAID THAT?

REVENGE, WOULD YOU LIKE?

NO QUARREL, WITH YOU HAVE.

ALLIANCE, WE SEEK, FOR BENEFIT MUTUAL.

BOUNTY, OUR *RIVAL*, IS.

QUARRY, *LILACHENEY* IS.

REWARD, SHARED BY *ALL*.

HOW SAY YOU?

COUNT ME *IN!*

SCOPED THE WHOLE CONCERT SITE--

--BUT THAT ITCH IS SHARPER 'N EVER!

INSTINCTS TELL ME THERE'S A THREAT.

SO WHY CAN'T AH FIND IT?

'RO, WHAT'S WRONG?

REMY'S SPOOKED. SO AM I.

THERE'S TROUBLE HERE--

--ONLY HE CAN'T SEE IT.

THAT... ***SCARES*** ME.

GOTCHA!

WHAT'CHA BE DOIN', 'RO? AH ***TOL'*** YOU--!

SURPRISE, CAJUN.

I'M NOT 'RO, WHOEVER THAT IS.

I'M ***BOUNTY.***

WHAM

THE *BOUNTY HUNTER!*

SHE BEEN AFTER LILA AS FAR BACK AS AH CAN REMEMBER.

FACT SHE GOT THE DROP ON ME TELLS ME HOW *GOOD* SHE IS.

AH MAKE ANOTHER MISTAKE, AH'M DONE.

CAN'T AFFORD PLAYIN' CUTE.

GOTTA HIT HER WITH MY *CARDS.*

ONLY NEED A FEW MORE SECONDS T' *CHARGE--*

GRAB

YOU'RE GOOD, LI'L GUY, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

KABOOM

KABOOM

KABOOM

HOW 'BOUT YOU QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD--

--AS IN *"BREATHING"?*

Y'AIN'T SO BAD YO'SELF, *CHÈRE.*

BUT AH DON' *QUIT.*

BACKSTAGE.

HEY THERE, EVERYONE--

--WE'RE BACK!

MARISSA, YOU LOOK JUST--

--GREAT!

IS THAT...MY *DAUGHTER?*

WHERE'S REMY?

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS BUGGING HIM.

I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED THOSE INSTINCTS--

--AND NOT LET LILA DISTRACT ME.

MOM, 'RO--WHAT'S *HAPPENED?*

LIKE I TOLD YOUR MOM, REMY'S GOT THIS "ITCH."

HE CUT OUT TO FIND THE CAUSE.

SINCE THEN, *NADA--NOTHING.*

OKAY--YOU STAY WITH LILA. KEEP MY MAMA SAFE.

LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

MARISSA, REMEMBER WHAT I SAID:

THE SUIT'LL PROTECT YOU AGAINST *BIG* HITS.

NOT SMALL, CLOSE ONES.

COPY THAT.

NO WORRIES, LILA--I'LL BE *FINE.*

ELSEWHERE-- WELL BEYOND CASUAL GLANCES...

CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T *WARN* YOU, CAJUN.

'LEAST AH GOT BACK MY *STAFF.*

GAMBIT, YOU CAN BARELY STAND.

ME, I'M HAVIN' A GREAT TIME.

YOU GIVE UP, MAYBE WE CAN MOVE ON TO SOMETHING A WHOLE LOT *MORE FUN.*

YOU MAKIN' A PASS AT ME, *CHÈRE?*

YOU TEMPTED?

ALREADY GOT A GIRL.

I DO SO LIKE A MAN OF *HONOR.*

I'M SORRY THINGS HAVE TO END THIS WAY.

ME TOO--

--BUT NOT FOR THE WAY YOU THINK.

SZWIPP

GOOD AS SHE IS--

--AND BOUNTY IS **VERY** GOOD--

--SHE BARELY HAS TIME TO **REALIZE** WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

...MUCH LESS **RESPOND**...

...AS REMY MAKES HIS MOVE.

BEFORE SHE CAN EVEN **BEGIN** TO FIGURE OUT A RESPONSE...

YANK!

...THE FIGHT'S TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN.

WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO ME?!

I CAN'T *MOVE!*

YOU T'INK, 'GAINST SOMEONE LIKE YOU, I'M TAKIN' *CHANCES?*

HAH!

TIP! TAP! TIP!

HERE'S THE DEAL: LEAVE LILA AN' MY FRIEN'S ALONE, AH LET YOU GO.

YOUR FRIENDS, NO PROBLEM.

LILA TOO.

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, THIEF. THIS WON'T HOLD ME FOREVER.

THOSE HITS--THE *NEURAL LOCKS* THEY TRIGGER BE *UNBREAKABLE*-- BUT IF Y'ALL DON' BEHAVE--

--AH CAN DO *WORSE.*

YOU CAN *TRY.*

LOOKS LIKE YOU FIGURED *WRONG.*

BEST FIGHT I'VE HAD IN AGES, AND THE MOST *FUN.*

HOWZABOUT A COMPROMISE:

LILA'S SAFE ON EARTH. YOU TOO.

OFF-WORLD, EVERYONE'S FAIR GAME.

WON'T SPEAK FOR LILA, BUT THAT WORKS FOR ME.

EVEN IF YOU CATCH HER, Y'LL NEVER HOLD HER.

MY PROBLEM.

I COULD REALLY USE A DRINK--

--BUT SOMEONE JUST SWIPED MY PURSE.

MY TREAT, THEN.

MEANWHILE...

CROWD LOOKS NORMAL, NOT THE SLIGHTEST SENSE OF DANGER.

BUT OUT HERE ON THE FRINGES--

--EVERYTHING FEELS... *DIFFERENT.*

AND NOW I KNOW *WHY.*

SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER MEETING 'EM FACE-TO-FACE.

ONE THING TO HEAR STORIES FROM LILA WHILE I'M TRYING ON CLOTHES--

--ABOUT THE FOLKS HUNTING HER.

THEY AREN'T ACTING HOSTILE.

FINGERS CROSSED, I HOPE THAT'S A LUCKY BREAK FOR ME.

BUT WHAT ABOUT REMY--?

A MAN JUST HAS TO KNOW WHERE TO *STAB*.

MAMA!

REMY!

--OH!

SURPRISE!

SLNCH

I LOVE THE OUTFIT. ACCORDING TO MY NEW FRIENDS, IT'S GREAT PROTECTION AGAINST GUNS.

SADLY, NOT SO MUCH AGAINST A PUNCH--

--OR A *BLADE*.

NEXT: REMY-- RULES!

NEXT:

GAMBIT

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